



1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Argonne National Laboratory, chartered in 1946 as
3 the nation's first national laboratory, maintains a site
4 located in southern DuPage County 25 miles southwest of the
5 Chicago Loop; and

6 WHEREAS, Operated by the University of Chicago for the U.S.
7 Department of Energy's Office of Science, Argonne National
8 Laboratory is a direct descendent of the University of
9 Chicago's Metallurgical Laboratory, part of the World War II
10 Manhattan Project; and

11 WHEREAS, The Manhattan Project, led by the famed Enrico
12 Fermi, winner of the 1938 Nobel Prize for physics for his work
13 on nuclear processes, created the world's first controlled
14 nuclear chain reaction; and

15 WHEREAS, Argonne's Illinois facility employs 3,200 staff,
16 scientists, and engineers, of whom 350 have doctoral degrees in
17 physics and more than a dozen prestigious international awards
18 for research in physics; and

19 WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Energy has announced its
20 intentions to offer a contract for the management and operation
21 of a Rare Isotope Accelerator, estimated to require
22 approximately \$1 billion and between 6 to 10 years to construct
23 and between \$100 and \$200 million annually to operate; and

24 WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Energy has placed the Rare
25 Isotope Accelerator in a third place tie among 28 projects it
26 has listed as necessary to keep the United States at the
27 forefront in scientific research; and

28 WHEREAS, The Rare Isotope Accelerator will help scientists
29 determine such things as the origins of elements and other

1 building blocks of the universe, the laws that govern nuclear
2 matter, and the process by which stars and galaxies evolve; and

3 WHEREAS, The Rare Isotope Accelerator will also have
4 practical applications in the medical field and its tracking of
5 disease, in industrial radiology and its identification of
6 industrial wear, and in national security; and

7 WHEREAS, With over 800,000 students attending the various
8 institutions of higher education in the State, Illinois'
9 faculty and students will benefit from the proximity of this
10 facility by developing collaborations for research in nuclear
11 physics and nuclear astrophysics; and

12 WHEREAS, Scientists and engineers at Argonne have already
13 laid the conceptual groundwork for the design, construction,
14 and operation for the Rare Isotope Accelerator, and Argonne
15 National Laboratory already has experience with the
16 cost-effective operation of this type of scientific and support
17 infrastructure for the U.S. Department of Energy; and

18 WHEREAS, The physical infrastructure, including security
19 for the facility, and the human resources already in place at
20 Argonne would take years and hundreds of millions of dollars to
21 replicate elsewhere; and

22 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has demonstrated its strong
23 support for Argonne and the possible location of the Rare
24 Isotope Accelerator there, as Governor Rod Blagojevich has
25 taken the initiative to create a task force that includes
26 Senator Dick Durbin, Speaker J. Dennis Hastert, and
27 Representative Judy Biggert; and

28 WHEREAS, This proven record of support from the State of
29 Illinois already includes a \$13 million appropriation in the
30 FY05 budget for the construction of a facility that will house

1 Accelerator support staff and act as a venue for the public to
2 learn more about the important work that would be conducted at
3 Argonne; and

4 WHEREAS, Argonne National Laboratory's close proximity to
5 two international airports, O'Hare and Midway, with O'Hare
6 offering more connections to more cities, more often than any
7 other airport in the world, will facilitate the travel of the
8 thousands of international scientists and researchers expected
9 to visit the facility; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
11 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
12 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Illinois General Assembly
13 pledges its support for Argonne National Laboratory and its bid
14 to be the home of the Rare Isotope Accelerator to be contracted
15 by the U.S. Department of Energy, and that the General Assembly
16 commits to do everything within its power and ability to
17 provide any support necessary in order for the Accelerator to
18 be constructed at the Illinois Argonne site; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Illinois General Assembly strongly
20 encourages the U.S. Department of Energy to consider Argonne's
21 existing scientific expertise and experience with the concepts
22 and operation of the Rare Isotope Accelerator, its existing
23 building and security infrastructure, and the human resources
24 already in place that make Argonne National Laboratory a
25 natural fit for the location of this exciting new technology;
26 and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
28 provided to President Bush and Vice President Cheney, Secretary
29 Spencer Abraham of the U.S. Department of Energy, the Illinois
30 Congressional Delegation, and Governor Rod Blagojevich.